

A superb pair of Carriage pistols by Boutet (Cat#X)



With browned sighted smooth-bore barrels octagonal over the rear and polygonal over their forward length, with lightly swamped muzzles and signed in full.

The breeches each punched and engraved with panels of geometric ornament capped by explosive motifs flanking a flaming grenade, all gilt and partly bright on a contrasting finely pounced matted ground, enclosing a series of four gilt maker's stamps (Neue Stöckel 97 and 95, together with a stamp *BC*, and another, perhaps *LC* for the barrelsmith Nicolas Leclerc), and the vent enclosed within a gilt oval. The muzzles each encircled by a garland of gilt acanthus leaves.

With barrel tangs of burnished steel engraved with a Neo-classical cornucopia surmounted by Triumphant laurels, the locks burnished en suite, signed respectively *BOUTET DIRECTEUR ARTISTE* and *MANUFRE À VERSAILLES*, with engraved indented borders with fluted bevelled edges, stepped tails, and fitted with sliding stud safety-catches and long steel-springs with no provision for rollers.

Figured pale walnut full stocks, the butts with raised flattened mouldings about the borders en suite with the edges of the lock-plates, and the grips cut with fine chequering.

Engraved mounts of burnished steel, the respective pistols with pommel-caps and trigger-guards each decorated with differing trophies of Neo-classical arms, the trigger-guards with palm finials, with small side-plates cut with acanthus ornament, strongly moulded baluster ramrod-pipes, and horn-tipped wooden ramrods with iron caps.

